



# Quarterly Report

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## Distracted driving

*Pokémon Go -- Arrive alive, don't play and drive*

While some players are reporting that Pokémon won't appear if you're moving faster than 20 mph, many players are still attempting to check into Pokéstops or otherwise engage with the game while driving. Some have even said that they have seen Pokémon on their dashboards.

The game prohibits a player from collecting Pokémon at speeds above 10 mph, but you can search for Pokémon at any speed. So a player could find a Pokémon in a car and then slow down or stop to catch it.

"The car has become the place to play, [a] car makes it easier, faster and completely unexpected," John Ayers, the lead author of a study and a research professor at San Diego State University said. "This is very different from a phone call and text messages. With Pokémon Go, you have to be immersed in the screen."

Not only is it unwise to play this game or any other while driving or otherwise in motion, drivers now need to pay more attention than ever to the roads to make sure they don't harm Pokémon-seeking pedestrians.

## Teenage girl killed by exploding Takata air bag

An exploding Takata air bag has claimed another life, this time a 17-year-old girl whose car crashed near Houston, Texas.

The girl is the latest victim of malfunctioning air bag inflators that have killed 10 people in the U.S. and another in Malaysia, touching off the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. More than 100 people have been hurt by the inflators, which can explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and sending shards into drivers and passengers.

So far 14 automakers have recalled

24 million U.S. vehicles to replace the inflators, which are powered by the chemical ammonium nitrate. Scientists hired by a consortium of automakers have determined that prolonged exposure to airborne moisture and high temperatures can cause the chemical to deteriorate. The inflator canisters also can allow moisture to enter in areas with extreme humidity.

Car owners can go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov) and key in their vehicle identification number to check for any unrepaired recalls.

## Motorvehicle fatalities up 9 percent.....no sign of a decrease in 2016

*Aug. 23, 2016 News provided by National Safety Council*

If trend continues, U.S. may see its deadliest driving year since 2007 and deadliest Labor Day since 2008.

Preliminary estimates from the National Safety Council indicate motor vehicle deaths were 9 percent higher through the first six months of 2016 than in 2015, and 18 percent higher than two years ago at the six month mark. An estimated 19,100 people have been killed on U.S. roads since January and 2.2 million were seriously injured. The total estimated cost of these deaths and injuries is \$205 billion.

The upward trend began in late 2014. Last winter, the National Safety Council issued its largest year-over-year percentage increase in 50 years, when it estimated fatalities had jumped 8 percent in 2015 compared to 2014. The continued rise in fatalities is prompting the Council to predict the deadliest Labor Day holiday period since 2008. NSC estimates 438 people will be killed during the three-day holiday weekend. *(Note: No statistics were available at the time of print regarding actual number of deaths nationwide over the 2016 Labor Day Weekend.)*

# Motorists illegally passing school buses

By one estimate, American drivers illegally passed school buses more than 13 million times last year. On average, roughly eight kids a year are killed by drivers who ignore school bus stop signs, reports CBS News.

At least 15 states allow cameras to be mounted outside school buses to record motorists illegally passing. Last January, Austin, Texas added cameras - on both the front and back of the buses - which automatically record whether nearby cars come to a stop for the kids.

Every day, school police review videos of violators. The fine is \$300. In four months, they sent citations to 6,600 motorists.

"That was a very significant number. It was shocking," said Austin Independent School District Police Chief Eric Mendez. "That's a lot of violators in a very short time period."

"That's somebody's baby. Every one of those kids is somebody's baby. And it's my responsibility as a driver to make sure that every one of those kids gets home safely.

The citations last year in Austin generated nearly \$2 million in fines, which was split 60-40 between the camera company and the school district.

Critics complain these cameras are more about making money than finding ways to keep kids safe.

Below is link to an Austin TV station of actual footage of drivers ignoring school bus regulations and hitting students.

<http://www.kvue.com/news/local/after-more-than-900-citations-in-first-week-of-school-aisd-reminding-drivers-to-watch-for-kids/312590754>

## REMINDERS:

- ♦ Mail your class reports to USA promptly (at least weekly). The quicker USA receives them, the faster your students receive their certificates.
- ♦ Submit your class schedules at least 40-days prior to scheduled classes.

# Drug and alcohol crash risk study

A new study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the largest and most carefully controlled of its kind to date, examines the crash risk associated with alcohol and drug use by drivers. The study used a case-control methodology, a research method commonly used in medicine and social science for studying risk factors for disease or other negative outcomes.

The effect of driver impairment on crash risk is a complex issue and precise answers are beyond the reach of any single study design. However, this new study is an important step in the accumulation of scientific evidence on this critical issue.

## ALCOHOL FINDINGS

The study found that alcohol use by drivers was clearly associated with elevated risk of crash involvement.

Drivers who had been drinking at

the .08 breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) had about 4 times the risk of crashing as sober drivers. (Note: The .08 BrAC and blood alcohol concentration (BAC) are the per se legal limit in every state.)

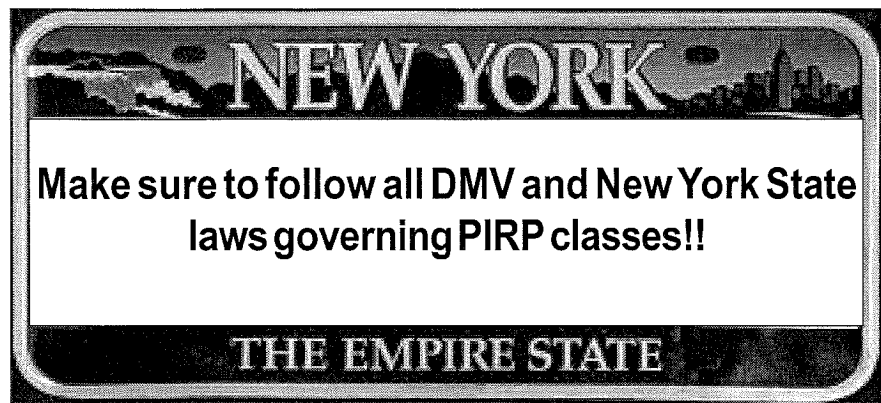
Drivers with alcohol levels at .15 BrAC had 12 times the risk.

## DRUG FINDINGS

Drivers participating in the study were tested for a large number of potentially impairing drugs using both

oral fluid (saliva) and blood samples. Marijuana (THC) was the only single category of drug for which study findings reached statistical significance.

Drivers testing positive for THC were overrepresented in the crash-involved (case) population. However, when demographic factors (age and gender) and alcohol use were controlled, the study did not find an increase in population-based crash risk associated with THC use.



# Safely share the road with large trucks

Do you clutch the wheel a little tighter as you pass a semi or other large trucks? You're not alone. Semis and large trucks navigate the roadways differently than other vehicles. Learning what they need — and what you can do — can help you safely share the road with large trucks.

Drivers of heavy trucks face a few difficulties on the road, including:

- ◆ **Reduced field of vision.** Truck drivers have multiple blind spots on both sides, in front of and behind their trucks.
- ◆ **Truck's size and weight increases its stopping distance.**

For example: If large trucks are going 65 miles per hour, they could need up to 200 yards — nearly the length of two football fields — to stop.

- ◆ **Slower reactions.** Most vehicles can merge quickly. Large trucks can't because of size.
- ◆ **Wind vulnerability.** Semis have a lot of surface area, making them harder to control when the wind picks up.
- ◆ **Wide turns.** Large trucks need plenty of room to make turns — especially right turns.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **Pass safely.** Always pass on the

left — the blind spot is smaller on this side — and maintain a steady speed.

- ◆ **Give them space.** Keep a safe following distance — four seconds or more — between you and large trucks to help avoid dangerous situations, such as sudden stops (and subsequent rear-ending), a truck rollover over in high wind, a tire blowout or a wide truck turn. Note: If you can't see the truck's mirrors, they can't see you.
- ◆ **Be aware.** Stay alert at all times, and keep your proximity to large trucks in mind as you share the road.

# Stuck in traffic, polluting the inside of our cars

The average American commuter spent 50 hours in traffic last year. As a nation, we spent eight billion hours sitting in our cars, waiting for lights to change, for the driver ahead to sneak into that parking spot, for an accident to be cleared.

Research suggests that all that sitting and waiting is exposing us to more pollutants than we'd take in if we were cruising along.

According to a study published in *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts*, pollution levels inside cars at red lights or in traffic jams are up to 40 percent higher than when traffic is moving.

In a car stuck in traffic, shutting all the windows and turning off the fan or heat reduced concentration doses of the smallest, most hazardous particles by up to 76 percent.

The researchers also found an increase in smaller particles inside the vehicle compared with larger ones when the heat was off and fans were

on full blast, drawing in air from outside. Those findings suggest that the ventilation system was more effective at filtering out larger particles than smaller ones while stopped at

intersections, reducing the concentration doses of those particles up to 68 percent, they said.

So when you're stopped at an intersection, roll up the windows, and breathe easier.

## AAA Study: Road Rage on the rise

WASHINGTON (CBS Miami / AP) -- A new survey says most drivers are guilty of losing their cool behind the wheel.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety says nearly 8 out of 10 U.S. drivers it surveyed admit expressing anger, aggression or road rage at least once in the previous year. That includes either following too closely, yelling at another driver, cutting them off or making angry gestures. And an estimated 8 million drivers did something more serious, like bumping or ramming a vehicle on purpose or getting out of their cars to confront another driver. Male drivers and drivers between 19 and 39 were significantly more likely to engage in aggressive behaviors.

The survey also found drivers in the northeast are angrier than those in other parts of the country.

AAA offers tips like never cause another driver to change their speed or direction. Be tolerant, the other driver could be having a really bad day and don't respond with eye contact or gestures.

# Traffic-related death numbers rise

The National Safety Council estimates 38,300 people were killed and 4.4 million injured on U.S. roads in 2015, which saw the largest one-year percentage increase in half a century.

There were 29,989 fatal motor vehicle crashes in the United States in 2014 in which 32,675 deaths occurred. This resulted in 10.2 deaths per 100,000 people and 1.08 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

Every day, 28 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 53 minutes. The annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than \$44 billion.

### How big is the problem?

\* In 2014, 9,967 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third (31%) of all traffic-related deaths in the U.S.

Of the 1,070 traffic deaths among children ages 0 to 14 years in 2014,

209 (19%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver

--Of the 209 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2014, over half (116) were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver.

--In 2014, over 1.1 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. That's one percent of the 121 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year.

-- Drugs other than alcohol (legal and illegal) are involved in about 16% of motor vehicle crashes

--Marijuana use is increasing and 13% of nighttime, weekend drivers have marijuana in their system. Marijuana users were about 25% more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with no evidence of marijuana use.



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**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**  
**USA TRAINING**  
*USA Training Company will be closed on the upcoming dates:*

**2016**  
 October 10 - Columbus Day  
 November 11 - Veteran's Day  
 Nov. 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving  
 December 22, 23 & 26 - Christmas

**2017**  
 January 2 - New Year's Day Observed  
 January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
 Feb 20 - President's Day  
 March 2 - Texas Independence Day

*Additional 2017 holidays will be published in January, 2017*  
**Quarterly Report**

**2014 New York Statistics**

New York population 19,746,227  
 Fatal crashes ..... 978  
 Deaths ..... 1039

*Stats provided by  
 National Safety Council*

**For lovers of the English Language**

- ◆ Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- ◆ Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- ◆ Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

In the event USA is experiencing trouble with our phone network, scan your requests and email to:  
**lbagwell@usatraining.com**



**Make sure to follow all DMV and New York State laws governing PIRP classes!!**

**THE EMPIRE STATE**